

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for displaying digital content comprising:
 - using a first tuner to access a first transport stream associated with a first frequency;
 - displaying in a main picture area of a display screen, a first program channel associated with said first transport stream;
 - using a second tuner during spare periods of said second tuner to access a second transport stream associated with a second frequency for a second program channel, wherein said second transport stream comprises program information operable to identify program related information for subsequent decoding thereof;
 - ~~decoding digital content from said second transport stream and caching~~
said program information into a memory buffer operable to reduce a delay in rendering time of said second program channel when said second program channel is selected
~~a portion of said digital content into a memory buffer, wherein said portion of said digital content is used to display a plurality of frames associated with said second transport stream upon receiving a channel change~~

associated therewith; and

upon selection of said first tuner being switched to a new said second program channel associated with a program information stored in said memory buffer, recalling said portion of said digital content program information from said memory buffer for decoding thereof operable to provide for use in providing a fast channel change operation to said new second program channel and display thereof by switching to said second tuner.

2. (original) A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said second tuner is normally dedicated to picture-in-picture rendering on said display screen.

3. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 2 wherein said ~~digital content~~ program information comprises table information associated with said second transport stream.

4. (original) A method as described in Claim 3 wherein said table information is derived from a program association table that is encoded in said second transport stream.

5. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 1 [[2]] further comprising:

caching wherein said digital content comprises decoded I frames

associated with of said second program channel ~~new channel~~.

6. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 1 [[2]] further comprising:

using said second tuner to scan through a plurality of frequencies over time to access a plurality of transport streams;

decoding digital content ~~from~~ associated with said plurality of transport streams resulting in decoded digital content; and

caching a plurality of portions of said decoded digital content ~~decoded associated with said plurality of transport streams~~ in a plurality of memory buffers associated therewith.

7. (original) A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said first transport stream and said second transport stream are the same and wherein said first frequency and said second frequency are the same.

8. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 1 [[2]] wherein said ~~portion of said digital content~~ program information cached to said memory buffer is associated with a said second program channel, wherein said second program channel ~~that is a predicted~~ as a next channel that will be selected, wherein said prediction is which is predicted based on previous channel selections.

9. (currently amended) A method for displaying digital content comprising:

using a first tuner to access a first transport stream associated with a first frequency;

displaying in a main picture area of a display screen, a first program channel associated with said first transport stream;

using a second tuner to access a second transport stream associated with a second frequency;

decoding first digital content from said second transport stream resulting in first decoded digital content comprising first program information operable to identify program related information for subsequent decoding thereof; and

~~caching a portion of said first digital content said first program information into a memory buffer operable to reduce a delay in rendering time of a second program channel when said second program channel is selected, wherein said portion of said first digital content is used to display a plurality of frames associated with said second transport stream upon receiving a channel change associated therewith;~~

using a third tuner to access a third transport stream associated with a third frequency;

decoding second digital content from said third transport stream resulting in second decoded digital content comprising second program information

operable to identify program related information for subsequent decoding thereof;

and

caching a portion of said second digital content said second program information into said memory buffer operable to reduce a delay in rendering time of a third program channel when said third program channel is selected, wherein said portion of said second digital content is used to display a plurality of frames associated with said third transport stream upon receiving a channel change associated therewith; and

upon a channel change to a new said second program channel or said third program channel associated with said second or third tuner, recalling said first program information or said second program information a portion of said digital content associated with said second or said third tuner from said memory buffer for use in providing a fast channel change operation to said new second program channel or to said third program channel.

10. (original) The method of Claim 9 wherein said second tuner is normally dedicated for picture-in-picture rendering on said display screen.

11. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 9 further comprising: wherein in response to a channel change to said third tuner, performing the following:

switching to said third tuner, wherein said switching comprises:

using said third tuner to access said third transport stream;
displaying in said main picture area of said display screen, said
new third program channel associated with said third transport stream;
using said first tuner to access a fourth transport stream associated
with a fourth frequency; and
decoding third digital content from said fourth transport stream
resulting in third decoded digital content comprising third program
information operable to identify program related information for
subsequent decoding thereof; and
caching ~~a portion of said digital content~~ said third program
information into said memory buffer operable to reduce a delay in
rendering time of a fourth program channel when said fourth program
channel is selected.

12. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 9 further
comprising:

caching wherein said portion of said digital content associated with said
new channel comprises decoded I-frames associated with each program
channel.

13. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 9 [[12]]
wherein program information ~~said portion of digital content associated with said~~

~~new channel~~ further comprises table information associated with a said third
transport stream associated therewith.

14. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 9 further
comprising:

using said third tuner to scan through a plurality of frequencies over time
to access a plurality of transport streams;

decoding ~~fourth~~ digital content ~~from~~ associated said plurality of transport
streams resulting in a fourth decoded digital content; and

caching a plurality of portions of said fourth decoded digital content
~~decoded associated with said plurality of transport streams~~ to said memory
buffer.

15. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 9 wherein
said ~~portion of said second digital content~~ second program information cached to
said memory buffer is associated with a said third program channel, wherein said
third program channel ~~that is a predicted~~ as potentially a next channel that will be
selected, wherein said prediction is ~~which is predicted~~ based on previous channel
selections.

16. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 15 wherein
said ~~portion of said first~~ program information ~~digital content~~ cached to said

memory buffer is associated with ~~another~~ a fourth program channel, wherein said fourth program channel ~~that is a predicted as potentially a next channel that will be selected, wherein said prediction is which is predicted~~ based on previous channel selections.

17. (currently amended) A method for displaying digital content comprising:

using a first tuner to access a first transport stream associated with a first frequency;

displaying in a main picture area of a display screen, a first program channel associated with said first transport stream;

using a second tuner to access a second transport stream associated with a second frequency;

decoding said second transport stream comprising table information associated with a second program channel, wherein said table information is from said second transport stream operable to identify program related information for subsequent decoding thereof; and

caching said table information into a memory buffer operable to reduce a delay in rendering time of said second program channel when said second program channel is selected; ~~said table information comprises program identifications for programs of said second transport stream that is used to display a plurality of frames associated with said second transport stream upon~~

~~receiving a channel change associated therewith; and~~

~~upon selection of said second program channel a channel change to a new channel associated with said second transport stream, recalling said table information from said memory buffer for decoding thereof operable to provide use in providing a fast channel change operation to said new second program channel.~~

18. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 17 further comprising:

decoding I-frames associated with programs of said second transport stream;

caching said I-frames to said memory buffer; and

upon said selection of said second program channel ~~change to said new channel, also~~ recalling cached I-frames for use in said fast channel change operation to said second program ~~providing said last channel change operation to said new channel.~~

19. (original) A method as described in Claim 17 wherein said second tuner is normally dedicated to picture-in-picture rendering on said display screen.

20. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 17 further comprising:

using said second tuner to also scan through a plurality of frequencies over time to access a plurality of transport streams; and
decoding said plurality of transport streams to retrieve a plurality of table informations from said plurality of transport streams; and
caching a said plurality of table informations ~~from said plurality of transport streams~~ to said memory buffer.

21. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 17 wherein said second program ~~new-channel~~ is a predicted as a next channel that will be selected, wherein said prediction is predicted based on prior channel selections.

22. (original) A method as described in Claim 17 wherein said first transport stream and said second transport stream are the same.

23. (currently amended) A method for displaying digital content comprising:

using a first tuner and a first decoder to access and decode a first transport stream associated with a first frequency, wherein said first transport stream comprises first program information;

displaying in a main picture area of a display screen, a first program channel associated with said first transport stream;

using a second decoder to decode a second program information

operable to identify program related information for subsequent decoding thereof;

and

~~catching a portion of said decoded~~ said second program information into a memory buffer operable to reduce a delay in rendering time of a second program channel associated with said second program channel when said second program channel is selected; ~~wherein said portion of said decoded second program is used to display a plurality of frames associated with said second program; and~~

~~upon selection of a channel change to a new~~ said second program channel ~~associated with said second program,~~ recalling said portion of said ~~decoded~~ second program information from said memory buffer for decoding thereof to provide a fast channel change operation to said second program channel and display thereof ~~and displaying said decoded second program in said main picture area of said display screen to provide a fast channel change operation to said new channel.~~

24. (original) A method as described in Claim 23 wherein said first transport stream comprises said second program.

25. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 23 wherein said second decoder is a spare decoder and wherein said second program channel is a predicted as a next program channel that will be selected.

26. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 23 wherein said second program information is associated with a second transport stream and wherein said method further comprises comprising:

using a second tuner to access said second transport stream.

27. (original) A method as described in Claim 23 further comprising:
using a second tuner and a third decoder to access and decode a second transport stream associated with a second frequency; and

displaying in a picture-in-picture area of a display screen, a program associated with said second transport stream.

28. (original) A method as described in Claim 26 further comprising:
using a third tuner and a third decoder to access and decode a third transport stream associated with a third frequency; and

displaying in a picture-in-picture area of a display screen, a program associated with said third transport stream.

29. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 26 wherein said second program channel is a predicted as a next program channel that will be selected, and wherein said method further comprises comprising:

using a third tuner and a third decoder to access and decode a third

program information associated with a third program channel, wherein said third program channel is a-predicted as a next program channel that will be selected.

30. (currently amended)A method as described in Claim 1, wherein said ~~digital content~~ program information comprises packets transmitted via said second transport stream ~~a plurality of images~~.